

with praise-worthy attention and fidelity. Their difficulties have been numerous and perplexing ; among which have been indifference to public schools on the part of many citizens ; downright opposition on the part of more ; the imperfect qualifications of candidates for teachers' certificates, coupled with the necessity of approbating unqualified and unsuitable persons, or of depriving many anxious neighborhoods of schools. They have keenly apprehended the importance of having suitable teachers. They realize that an adequate system of Public Instruction cannot be organized and operated without qualified teachers. What clay is in the hands of the potter, such is the school in the hands of the teacher, they know full well. Placed then in this dilemma ; damage to the school system, or no schools where the population are especially needy and hungry for knowledge, their situation is one of great embarrassment and delicacy. Your Excellency, is assured that they have generally met their difficulties with commendable prudence and wisdom.

It is to be regretted that so many Examiners have been troubled in obtaining remuneration for their services.

The Act of April 1869, providing for a system of Public Instruction, required that they should be paid from the "School Fund," but neglected to raise or constitute a fund for that purpose. By that Act, all the money designated for school purposes, was appropriated for the payment of teachers wages. Consequently, it was impossible for them to obtain compensation. At the session of 1869-70 the aforesaid act was so amended, that these officers, are required to be paid from the county Treasury, "as other salaried officers are paid." As soon as the several Boards of the County Commissioners take note of this amendment, this difficulty will probably disappear.

In some instances County Commissioners have claimed the right to prescribe and limit the duties of the Examiners, and to such an extent, that he has not been able to properly supervise the schools in his jurisdiction. In thus doing, the Commissioners have exceeded their authority. The duties of the